My Tutoring Philosophy

As a student I understand how nerve-racking writing a paper can be. No matter how many papers I write, I will always be a little scared turning in a final draft. That is why I became a tutor: to help fellow writers use their fear to improve their papers and gain confidence along the way. My tutoring philosophy is to help writers help themselves.

The first step in helping a writer is to discover the fears they have about the paper. Are they having trouble supporting their argument? Is it a content issue, or do they just want another set of eyes before turning it in? I need to first establish what I should look out for while reading their work, then I must do what I can to assuage the fears they discuss.

After reading the paper and discovering for myself what needs to be worked on, I ask them about the choices they made and why they are worried about them. What were you trying to say here? What do you think could make this section stronger? By asking constructive questions, I not only learn more about their statement, but the writer can more articulately express what they wanted to say or better understand what they need to rework. At this point, the writer experiences a confidence boost because they either know they have said what they set out to say, or they know exactly what they need to do in order to improve their work.

My tutoring philosophy is simple. I aim to assist writers in turning their fears into stepping stones towards a better paper. I always keep the writer in mind. It’s their paper, and I like to keep it that way. As a peer tutor, it is my job to let the writer teach him/herself and help writers help themselves.